

CHAPTER 41
GRANTING ASSISTANCE

[Prior to 7/1/83, Social Services[770] Ch 41]
[Prior to 2/11/87, Human Services[498]]

DIVISION I
FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM—
CONTROL GROUP
[Rescinded IAB 2/12/97, effective 3/1/97]

441—41.1 to 41.20 Reserved.

DIVISION II
FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM—TREATMENT GROUP
[Prior to 10/13/93, Human Services(441—41.1 to 41.9)]

441—41.21(239B) Eligibility factors specific to child.

41.21(1) Age. The family investment program shall be available to a needy child under the age of 18 years without regard to school attendance.

A child is eligible for the entire month in which the child's eighteenth birthday occurs, unless the birthday falls on the first day of the month. The family investment program shall also be available to a needy child of 18 years who is a full-time student in a secondary school, or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training, as defined in paragraph 41.24(2) "e," and who is reasonably expected to complete the program before reaching the age of 19.

41.21(2) Rescinded, effective June 1, 1988.

41.21(3) Residing with relative. The child shall be living in the home of one of the relatives specified in subrule 41.22(3). When an unwed mother intends to place her child for adoption shortly after birth, the child shall be considered as living with the mother until the time custody is actually relinquished.

a. Living with relatives implies primarily the existence of a relationship involving an accepted responsibility on the part of the relative for the child's welfare, including the sharing of a common household.

b. Home is the family setting maintained or in the process of being established as evidenced by the assumption and continuation of responsibility for the child by the relative.

41.21(4) Rescinded, effective July 1, 1980.

41.21(5) Deprivation of parental care and support.

a. A child shall be considered as deprived of parental support or care when the parent is out of the home in which the child lives under the following conditions. When these conditions exist, the parent may be absent for any reason, and may have left only recently or some time previously; except that a parent whose absence is occasioned solely by reason of the performance of active duty in the uniformed services of the United States is not considered absent from the home. "Uniformed service" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, or Public Health Service of the United States. A parent who is a convicted offender but is permitted to live at home while serving a court-imposed sentence by performing unpaid public work or unpaid community service during the workday is considered absent from the home.

(1) The nature of the absence is such as either to interrupt or to terminate the parent's functioning as a provider of maintenance, physical care, or guidance for the child; and

(2) The known or indefinite duration of the absence precludes relying on the parent to plan for the present support or care of the child.

b. The family investment program is available to a child of unmarried parents the same as to a child of married parents when all eligibility factors are met.

c. A parent is considered incapacitated when a clearly identifiable physical or mental defect has a demonstrable effect upon earning capacity or the performance of the homemaking duties required to maintain a home for the child. The incapacity shall be expected to last for a period of at least 30 days from the date of application.

(1) The determination of incapacity shall be supported by medical or psychological evidence. The evidence may be submitted either by letter from the physician or on Form PA-2126-5, Report on Incapacity.

(2) When an examination is required and other resources are not available to meet the expense of the examination, the physician shall be authorized to make the examination and submit the claim for payment on Form PA-5113-0, Authorization for Examination and Claim for Payment.

(3) A finding of eligibility for social security benefits or supplemental security income benefits based on disability or blindness is acceptable proof of incapacity for family investment program purposes.

(4) Rescinded, IAB 6/1/88, effective 8/1/88.

(5) A parent who is considered incapacitated shall be referred to the department of education, division of vocational rehabilitation services, for evaluation and services. Acceptance of these services is optional.

d. When a child is deprived of support or care of a natural parent, the presence of an able-bodied stepparent in the home shall not disqualify a child for assistance, provided that other eligibility factors are met. A stepparent is a person who is the legal spouse of the child's natural or adoptive parent by ceremonial or common law marriage.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 239B.1, 239B.2 and 239B.5.

441—41.22(239B) Eligibility factors specific to payee.

41.22(1) Reserved.

41.22(2) Rescinded, effective June 1, 1988.

41.22(3) *Specified relationship.*

a. A child may be considered as meeting the requirement of living with a specified relative if the child's home is with one of the following or with a spouse of the relative even though the marriage is terminated by death or divorce:

Father—adoptive father.

Mother—adoptive mother.

Grandfather—grandfather-in-law, meaning the subsequent husband of the child's natural grandmother, i.e., stepgrandfather—adoptive grandfather.

Grandmother—grandmother-in-law, meaning the subsequent wife of the child's natural grandfather, i.e., stepgrandmother—adoptive grandmother.

Great-grandfather—great-great-grandfather.

Great-grandmother—great-great-grandmother.

Stepfather, but not his parents.

Stepmother, but not her parents.

Brother—brother-of-half-blood—stepbrother—brother-in-law—adoptive brother.

Sister—sister-of-half-blood—stepsister—sister-in-law—adoptive sister.

Uncle—uncle, of whole or half blood.

Uncle-in-law—uncle-in-law.

Great uncle—great-great-uncle.

Great aunt—great-great-aunt.

First cousins—nephews—nieces.

Second cousins, meaning the son or daughter of one's parent's first cousin.

b. A relative of the putative father can qualify as a specified relative if the putative father has acknowledged paternity by the type of written evidence on which a prudent person would rely.

41.22(4) *Liability of relatives.* All appropriate steps shall be taken to secure support from legally liable persons on behalf of all persons in the eligible group, including the establishment of paternity.

a. When necessary to establish eligibility, the local office shall make the initial contact with the absent parent at the time of application. Subsequent contacts shall be made by the child support recovery unit.

b. When contact with the family investment program family or other sources of information indicates that relatives other than parents and spouses of the eligible children are contributing toward the support of members of the eligible group, have contributed in the past, or are of such financial standing they might reasonably be expected to contribute, the local office shall contact these persons to verify current contributions or arrange for contributions on a voluntary basis.

41.22(5) *Referral to child support recovery unit.* The local office shall provide prompt notice to the child support recovery unit whenever assistance is furnished with respect to a child whose eligibility is based on the continued absence of a parent from the home or when any member of the eligible group is entitled to support payments.

“Prompt notice” means within two working days of the date assistance is approved.

41.22(6) *Cooperation in obtaining support.* Each applicant for or recipient of the family investment program shall cooperate with the department in establishing paternity and securing support for persons whose needs are included in the assistance grant, except when good cause as defined in 41.22(8) for refusal to cooperate is established.

a. The applicant or recipient shall cooperate in the following areas:

- (1) Identifying and locating the parent of the child for whom aid is claimed.
- (2) Establishing the paternity of a child born out of wedlock for whom aid is claimed.
- (3) Obtaining support payments for the applicant or recipient and for a child for whom aid is claimed.
- (4) Rescinded IAB 12/3/97, effective 2/1/98.

b. Cooperation is defined as including the following actions by the applicant or recipient:

(1) Appearing at the local office or the child support recovery unit to provide verbal or written information or documentary evidence known to, possessed by, or reasonably obtained by the applicant or recipient that is relevant to achieving the objectives of the child support recovery program.

(2) Appearing as a witness at judicial or other hearings or proceedings.

(3) Providing information, or attesting to the lack of information, under penalty of perjury.

(4) Paying to the department any cash support payments for a member of the eligible group, except as described at 41.27(7) “*p*” and “*q*,” received by a recipient after the date of decision as defined in 441—subrule 40.24(4).

(5) Providing the name of the absent parent and additional necessary information.

c. The applicant or recipient shall cooperate with the local office in supplying information with respect to the absent parent, the receipt of support, and the establishment of paternity, to the extent necessary to establish eligibility for assistance and permit an appropriate referral to the child support recovery unit.

d. The applicant or recipient shall cooperate with the child support recovery unit to the extent of supplying all known information and documents pertaining to the location of the absent parent and taking action as may be necessary to secure or enforce a support obligation or establish paternity. This includes completing and signing documents determined to be necessary by the state’s attorney for any relevant judicial or administrative process.

e. In the circumstance as described at paragraph “*b*,” subparagraph (4), the income maintenance unit in the county office shall make the determination of whether or not the client has cooperated. In all other instances, the child support recovery unit (CSRU) shall make the determination of whether the client has cooperated. CSRU delegates the income maintenance unit in the county office to make this determination for applicants.

f. Failure to cooperate shall result in a sanction to the family. The sanction shall be a deduction of 25 percent from the net cash assistance grant amount payable to the family prior to any deduction for recoupment of a prior overpayment. When the income maintenance unit determines noncooperation, the sanction shall be implemented after the noncooperation has occurred. The sanction shall remain in effect until the client has expressed willingness to cooperate. However, any action to remove the sanction shall be delayed until cooperation has occurred. When the child support recovery unit (CSRU) makes the determination, the sanction shall be implemented upon notification from CSRU to the income maintenance unit that the client has failed to cooperate. The sanction shall remain in effect until the client has expressed to either income maintenance or CSRU staff willingness to cooperate. However, any action to remove the sanction shall be delayed until income maintenance is notified by CSRU that the client has cooperated. When the family is also subject to sanction under paragraph 41.25(8) "g," the sanction for failure to cooperate in obtaining support shall be calculated as though the sanction at paragraph 41.25(8) "g" does not exist.

41.22(7) *Assignment of support payments.* Each applicant for or recipient of assistance shall assign to the department any rights to support from any other person as the applicant or recipient may have. This shall include rights to support in the applicant's or recipient's own behalf or in behalf of any other family member for whom the applicant or recipient is applying or receiving assistance and which have accrued at the time the assignment is executed. An assignment is effective the same date the county office enters all eligibility information into the department's computer system and is effective for the entire period for which assistance is paid.

a. The support assignment shall remain in effect during the month of suspension. However, the monthly support entitlement or the support collected for a month of suspension, whichever is less, shall be refunded to the client by the child support recovery unit at the earliest possible date.

b. Rescinded IAB 7/1/98, effective 7/1/98.

c. and *d.* Reserved.

e. Rescinded IAB 12/3/97, effective 2/1/98.

41.22(8) *Good cause for refusal to cooperate.* Good cause shall exist when it is determined that cooperation in establishing paternity and securing support is against the best interests of the child.

a. The local office shall determine that cooperation is against the child's best interest when the applicant's or recipient's cooperation in establishing paternity or securing support is reasonably anticipated to result in:

- (1) Physical harm to the child for whom support is to be sought; or
- (2) Emotional harm to the child for whom support is to be sought; or
- (3) Physical harm to the parent or caretaker relative with whom the child is living which reduces the person's capacity to care for the child adequately; or
- (4) Emotional harm to the parent or caretaker relative with whom the child is living of a nature or degree that it reduces the person's capacity to care for the child adequately.

b. The local office shall determine that cooperation is against the child's best interest when at least one of the following circumstances exists, and the local office believes that because of the existence of that circumstance, in the particular case, proceeding to establish paternity or secure support would be detrimental to the child for whom support would be sought.

- (1) The child for whom support is sought was conceived as a result of incest or forcible rape.
- (2) Legal proceedings for the adoption of the child are pending before a court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) The applicant or recipient is currently being assisted by a public or licensed private social agency to resolve the issue of whether to keep the child or relinquish the child for adoption, and the discussions have not gone on for more than three months.

c. Physical harm and emotional harm shall be of a serious nature in order to justify a finding of good cause. A finding of good cause for emotional harm shall be based only upon a demonstration of an emotional impairment that substantially affects the individual's functioning.

d. When the good cause determination is based in whole or in part upon the anticipation of emotional harm to the child, the parent, or the caretaker relative, the following shall be considered:

- (1) The present emotional state of the individual subject to emotional harm.
- (2) The emotional health history of the individual subject to emotional harm.
- (3) Intensity and probable duration of the emotional impairment.
- (4) The degree of cooperation required.
- (5) The extent of involvement of the child in the paternity establishment or support enforcement activity to be undertaken.